5 great ways to celebrate Easter in North Texas

MOVIES: 'Isle of Dogs,' 'Ready Player One' lead lineup **DINING:** Best of the ballpark menu

The Dallas Morning News

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DEADLY GAS EXPLOSION

Victim's family files lawsuit against Atmos

'Gross negligence,' failure to repair leaks before February blast are among allegations

By CARY ASPINWALL, HOLLY K. HACKER and JENNIFER EMILY
Staff Writers

Atmos Energy never repaired dangerous leaks to its "mismatched Frankensteinian" pipeline system before the February explosion that killed a 12-year-old Dallas girl, her family contends in a lawsuit filed Thursday.

Linda Rogers' family filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Dallas County court, seeking more than $1 million in damages due to what the suit calls the company's "gross negligence."

Atmos has repeatedly blamed heavy rains in February and "unique" soil composition for the disaster, which executives described as "sud-

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Rose Baca/Staff Photographer

Karime Coronado and her family evacuated their home on Nogales Drive in northwest Dallas on Wednesday night. At least 25 houses and some apartments were evacuated over gas leak concerns.

Hats off to Rangers' opening day

Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

Andrew Brown and his wife, Andrea, of Plano cheered after the playing of the national anthem during the Rangers' opening day Thursday at Globe Life Park in Arlington. Houston ace Justin Verlander led the defending champion Astros to a 4-1 win over the Rangers. The two Texas rivals also play each other today, Saturday and Sunday in Arlington. **(Coverage 1, 6-8C)**

AUTO EMISSIONS

EPA set to relax rules

Plan would set up legal fight with California, other states that want stricter standards

FROM WIRE REPORTS

The Trump administration is expected to launch an effort within days to weaken emissions and fuel economy standards for automobiles, handing a victory to car manufacturers and giving them ammunition to potentially roll back industry standards worldwide.

SCOTT PRUITT says the plan will result in more affordable automobiles.

The move — which undercuts one of President Barack Obama's signature efforts to fight climate change — would also propel the Trump administration toward a courtroom clash with California, which has vowed to stick with the stricter rules even if Washington rolls back federal standards. That fight could end up creating one set of rules for cars sold in California and the 12 states that follow its lead, and weaker rules for the rest of the states, in effect splitting the nation into two markets.

Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, is expected to frame the initiative as eliminating a regulatory burden on automakers that will result in more affordable trucks, vans and SUVs for buyers, according to people familiar with the plan.

An EPA spokeswoman confirmed that Pruitt had sent a draft of the 16-page plan to the White House for approval.

"This is certainly a big deal," said Robert Stavins, director of the Harvard environmental economics pro-

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Sunny

H **72**
L **49**

Metro, back page

WORLD

Jailhouse blaze kills 68 in Venezuela

Inmates' families react with anger and grief after a fire kills 68 people at an overcrowded jail in Venezuela, which is struggling on many fronts. **10A**

NATION

Veterans groups question VA pick

President Donald Trump's decision to name his personal doctor to run the Department of Veterans Affairs raises concerns about whether he has the experience to run a huge agency. **4A**

METRO & STATE

Police hold suspect in Plano slaying

A suspect is charged in a shooting that left one person dead and three wounded at a Plano apartment complex. **1B**

BUSINESS

Galleria area draws new development

The new AC Hotel is part of a wave of development taking shape around the Galleria. **1D**

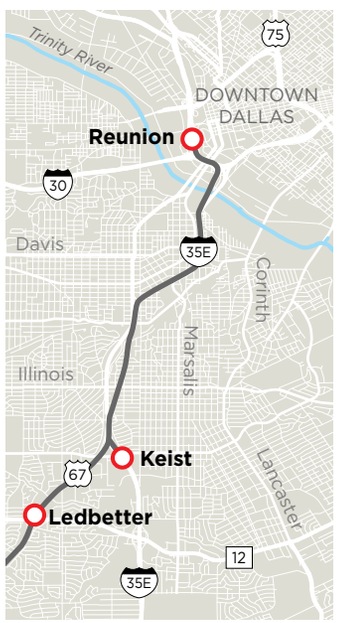
Feds state case against AT&T deal

A witness says the AT&T merger could harm rival companies. **1D**

Southern Gateway HOV closures

Northbound and southbound HOV lanes along I-35E and U.S. 67 will close Friday evening until the end of the project in late 2021, when they will reopen as reversible nontolled managed express lanes. **(Story, 1B)**

HOV access points that will close include these entrances and exits:



SOURCE: TXDOT Staff Graphic

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MEXICO | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Hopefuls wooing angry voters

Race kicks off with faith in democracy battered by corruption, bloodshed

By ALFREDO CORCHADO
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MEXICO CITY — Victor Hugo de la Rosa is the type of voter presidential candidates are desperate for — the kind still struggling to make a decision.

Since 2000 he had voted for historic change promised by the National Action Party, or PAN, in Mexico. In 2012, disillusioned, he returned to the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, hoping the government would restore stability and stop the drug-related bloodshed that has plagued the nation.

Instead, the violence worsened. Today, weeks before the election, de la Rosa doesn't believe any of what the four viable candidates say. But despite his fading faith in Mexico's democracy, he plans to vote. Now he's motivated more by anger — at the brazen corruption, unending drug violence, insecurity and mass disappearances — than by

See **MEXICAN** Page 2A

KREMLIN-WEST RELATIONS

Russia ousting more than 150 diplomats

Retaliation also includes closing U.S. Consulate

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MOSCOW — Russia on Thursday announced it was expelling more than 150 diplomats, including 60 Americans, and said it was closing the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg in retaliation for the expulsion of Russian diplomats over the poisoning of a former spy and his daughter in Britain.

The crisis over the poisoning, which Britain blamed on Moscow, has driven tensions between the Kremlin and the West to their highest pitch in decades. The responses raise the prospect of more serious escalations, either public or clandestine.

Two dozen countries, including the U.S., many EU nations

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